Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: EXPORT INFLATION INSURANCE MEASURES

REF: STATE 153299

- 1. SINCE RECEIVING REFTEL, WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE COMMISSION'S INTENTIONS WITH KLEIN, THE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPORT CREDIT MATTERS. KLEIN GIVES A SIMILAR PICTURE TO ABBOTT'S. HE SAYS THE VARIOUS INTERESTED PARTS OF THE COMMISSION STAFF HAVE AGREED ON THE LINE TO BE TAKEN. THEY WILL HOWEVER WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS BEFORE SUBMITTING A FORMAL PROPOSAL TO THE COMMISSION. KLEIN SAID THAT THE ARGUMENTATION WOULD BE MORE ECONOMIC THAN LEGAL, BY WHICH HE SEEMED TO MEAN EMPHASIS ON THE INAPPROPRIATENESS OR LACK OF NECESSITY OF SUCH MEASURES. HE SAID THAT THE LEGAL PORTION OF THE CASE MIGHT BE STRENGTHENED BY A COURT OF JUSTICE DECISION WHICH WAS LIKELY WITHIN THE COURSE OF THE YEAR.
- 2. KLEIN, IN REFERRING TO THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE COMMISSION'S CASE, SPOKE OF ARTICLES 112 AND 113 OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE TREATY OF ROME. THESE IN FACT SEEM THE LIKELIEST

BASIS FOR COMMISSION ACTION. SOME MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION STAFF EARLIER REFERRED TO ARTICLES 92 THROUGH 94. HOWEVER, THESE ARTICLES DEAL WITH STATE AIDS WHICH DISTORT COMPETITION WITHIN THE COMMON MARKET. SINCE THE INFLATION MEASURES SCHEMES IN QUESTION SEEM TO BE DIRECTED TO EXTERNAL TRADE, THE APPLICABILITY OF THESE ARTICLES HAS ALWAYS APPEARED DOUBTFUL, AND IT DOES NOT NOW SEEM THAT THE COMMISSION WILL RELY ON THEM.

3. WE HAVE SOME DOUBTS AS TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A COMMISSION ATTEMPT TO CRACK DOWN ON THESE SCHEMES. THREE OF THE FOUR MAJOR STATES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY ARE INVOLVED. THEREFORE, DESPITE WHAT SEEMS TO BE A CLEAR VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 112, IT MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR THE COMMISSION TO PERSUADE THE COUNCIL TO ENFORCE CONFORMITY TO THE TREATY.

4. IN ANY EVENT, RAPID ACTION IS RULED OUT BY THE COMMISSION STAFF ITSELF. WE SHALL, OF COURSE, SEEK TO DEVELOP FURTHER INFORMATION BOTH ON THE NATURE OF THE COMMISSION CASE AND ON THE CHANCES OF ITS BEING EFFECTIVE. GREENWALD

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